

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10 are pending in the application. The Examiner maintains his rejections contained in the prior Office Action, wherein the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerson et al. (U.S. Patent 4,870,686) in view of Kikinis et al. (U.S. Patent 5,799,067) and Schwelb et al. (U.S. Patent 5,950,123); rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerson et al. in view of Kikinis et al. and Schwelb et al., and further in view of Klatt ("Review of Text-To-Speech conversion for English"); and rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerson et al. in view of Kikinis et al., Schwelb et al. and Klatt, and further in view of Marui (U.S. Patent 4,959,850).

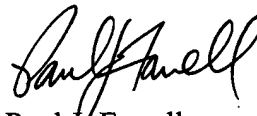
Although the Office Action was marked 'Final' by the Examiner when it was issued, on April 13th and 20th Applicant's Representative, Michael J. Musella, Esq., conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss this application. During the telephone interview the Examiner stated that he was equating the "short message calling signal" with the "short message" itself, and then, equating the "short message calling signal" with a common handshaking of electronic devices. It was respectfully submitted to the Examiner that these assumptions were incorrect, and that these elements were in fact different and should not be equated. After a lengthy and detailed discussion, the Examiner acquiesced and stated that the "short message calling signal" is understood as a signal generated and operated upon as recited in the claims, and is distinct from the "short message" or a handshaking process. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the 'Final' marking of the Office Action, and examine the claims under this new understanding. Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-8 and 10 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 5 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Without conceding the patentability *per se* of dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 10, these claims are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 10 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims, i.e. Claims 1-8 and 10, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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